



SECURITY OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Many of us were affected, either directly or indirectly, by the events of September 11, 2001. Officials still say there is a possibility of further actions by terrorists in the United States and that terrorists may want to acquire radioactive materials. The Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency is not aware of any specific threat. However as a matter of prudence, licensees should increase their level of security and awareness.

Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency regulations have two provisions relating to the security of radioactive materials.

R12-1-426 Security of Stored Sources of Radiation A licensee or registrant shall secure from unauthorized removal or access licensed or registered sources of radiation that are stored.

R12-1-427 Control of Sources of Radiation Not in Storage A. A licensee shall control and maintain constant surveillance of licensed radioactive material that is in an unrestricted area and is not in storage or in a patient.

In addition, licensees are reminded that they are required to report any stolen, lost or missing radioactive material. If the quantity is greater than 1,000 times Appendix C of Article 4 of the regulations, the report is due immediately upon discovery. If the quantity is less than 1,000 times Appendix C but greater than 10 times Appendix C, the report is not due for thirty days although we would like to get them as soon as possible.

Licensees should review their use and security of radioactive materials, both at fixed locations and at temporary job sites, and determine whether they need to improve security. The following actions should be considered in this review:

1. Control personnel access, including verification of the identities of all personnel entering areas containing large amounts of radioactive materials that could be used for terrorist attacks, especially readily dispersible, high specific activity radioactive materials.

2. Become aware of the presence of any suspicious packages transported by personnel or observed in the vicinity of the facility.
3. Provide heightened control of vehicle access to areas near the materials if your facility could release large quantities of radioactive materials.
4. Limit the potential for theft or sabotage of radioactive materials. Assure material is locked and secure when not in use.
5. Lock unoccupied vehicle that contain radioactive materials.

If any radioactive materials should become lost or stolen, call the Arizona Radiation Regulatory Agency at 602-255-4845 during business hours or 602-223-2212 after business hours.

Adapted from Colorado Radioactive Materials Review.